

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;
- b) a nucleotide sequence having at least 65% identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
- c) a nucleotide sequence having at least 70 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
- d) a nucleotide sequence having at least 75 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
- e) a nucleotide sequence having at least 85 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
- f) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
- g) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the ligand binding site of SEQ ID NO:2~~consisting of at least 22 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and~~
- h) ~~a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the full length complement of the nucleotide sequence of a), said stringent conditions comprising hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, followed by a wash in 0.1X SSC at 60 to 65°C; and~~
- i) h) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Previously Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said *Bt* toxin is a Cry1A toxin.

3. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein said Cry1A toxin is a Cry1A(b) toxin.

4-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;
b) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 65% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

c) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 70% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

d) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

e) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

f) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

g) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide consisting of at least 150 ~~25~~ contiguous residues of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide comprises the ligand binding site of SEQ ID NO:2 and has *Bt* toxin binding activity; and

h) a polypeptide encoded by ~~encoding~~ a nucleotide sequence according to claim 1; wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding the fusion polypeptide is operably linked to a promoter capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence.

8. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 7 wherein said polypeptide of interest is a toxin receptor.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Previously Amended) An expression cassette comprising at least one nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a promoter capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence .

11. (Previously Amended) The expression cassette of claim 10, wherein said promoter is capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence in an insect cell or a mammalian cell.

12. (Previously Amended) The expression cassette of claim 10 wherein said promoter is capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence in a microorganism.

13. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 12 wherein said microorganism is yeast or bacteria.

14. (Previously Amended) A vector for delivery of a nucleotide sequence to a cell, the vector comprising at least one nucleotide sequence according to claim 1.

15. (Previously Amended) An isolated cell containing the vector of claim 14.

16. (Previously Amended) An isolated transformed cell having stably incorporated within its genome a nucleotide sequence according to claim 1.

17. (Original) The transformed cell of claim 16, wherein said cell is a plant cell.

18. (Original) The transformed cell of claim 17, wherein said plant cell is monocotyledonous.

19-25 Cancelled.

26. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least 70 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least 75 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

c' 28. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least 85 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Previously Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (Previously Added) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (Previously Added) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

32. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity ~~is comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 22 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1~~ encoding a polypeptide comprising the ligand binding site of SEQ ID NO:2.

33. (Previously Amended) The expression cassette of claim 7, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

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34. (Previously Amended) The expression cassette of claim 33, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

35. (Previously Amended) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

36. (Previously Added) The expression cassette of claim 35, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
